

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

~~The present application relates to a~~ A particle characterization apparatus in which particles suspended in a liquid ~~passes~~ pass through an orifice or aperture for detection and characterization of the particles utilizing ~~utilising~~ impedance determination. In particular, ~~the invention relates to utilization of~~ apparatus includes a membrane of a polymer as a base material for precision machining of a sub-millimeter ~~sub-millimetre~~ orifice. Forming the orifice in a polymer membrane facilitates the construction of a single use cartridge for haematology analysis due to low material and production costs.